

Gamba

NEWS

Volume 11, Number 9 • May 1999

Anita Axford dies at age 75

Anita Axford, noted for her musicianship, wry wit and clear-headed opinions, died in her sleep at the age of 75 at her home in Sebastopol on February 8. This was just before the February meeting of the Sonoma County Recorder Society, where her loss was immediately felt.

Anita could play seemingly any instrument, and often did. Born in San Francisco, she received her musical training at the University of Redlands and for around thirty years taught elementary and junior-high instrumental music, particularly in Barstow, Calif. She was active in early-music circles in Southern California, playing recorder in the Riverside Recorder Society.

After inheriting her father's property in Sebastopol, she retired there, attending recorder workshops, playing crumhorns, and taking lessons on her new love, the viol. Anita concentrated in her later years on playing the viola da gamba, attending many viol workshops. She also made instruments with Lyn Elder and attended workshops in Ojai, in San Luis Obispo and at Dominican College.

Anita is survived by a nephew, and by her niece, Penny Turrell, and dog, Tigger, with whom she shared her Sebastopol home. At her request, there was no memorial service, but those who knew her best suggest that Anita could be remembered by a contribution to the Marine Mammal Center, Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito 94965, which she often visited during the Headlands Workshop.

The Fresh-Air Viol Maker of Oakland

Local viol maker Chris Davies' shop is situated on an unheated porch at the rear of his South Oakland flat. Working conditions are a bit difficult but, he jokes, "they are similar to my working conditions as an employee of the Fremont public schools. My shop is actually fine now that it's warm but it did involve working in thermal gear all winter. And it has a beautiful view of the garden."

Chris, who learned tool use and basic theory of stringed instrument construction at the Chicago School of Violin Making, taught himself viol making with the generous advice of other makers, particularly Ray Nurse in Vancouver. He holds down a full-time job as a speech pathologist, in addition to which he spends four to five hours a day on weekdays and twelve hours a day on weekends as a plain-air viol maker.

"It involves 16-hour work days. That's about it. It's a nice balance, working in two different modes: doing very verbal work and doing very tactile work. The

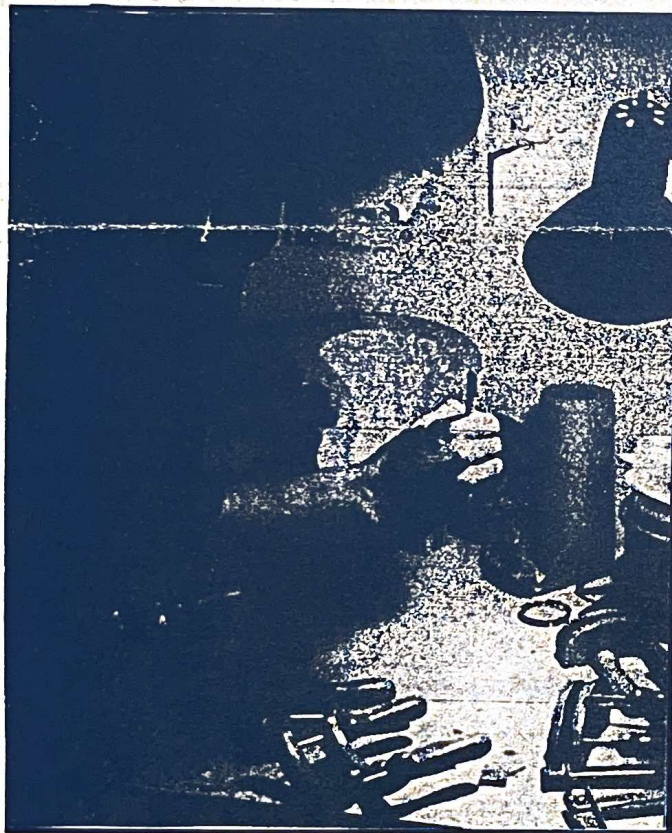
More →

Continued →

two kind of complement each other."

He accepts the demands on his time because instrument making is his passion. "I come from a family that did a lot of hand work. My mother weaves, and my father built dulcimers in the 'sixties. When I was quite young I knew I wanted to build instruments.

He discovered early music at the age of 11. "I grew up in a small Northern town with very few cultural choices. By chance I stumbled upon a publisher's closeout of Medieval music and ordered an LP set by mail, completely unaware of what I was getting," he says. "It struck a chord with my basically pre-industrial leanings. I was hooked. Speaking of pre-industrial leanings, I am living proof that a bass viol can be carried on a bicycle!"



Chris Davies: 136 International Blvd., Oakland, CA 94606; 510-465-5685. Two small trebles after Henry Jaye with carved heads, ebony fittings, double purfling front and back and purled maple fingerboards will be available for purchase in late May.

Lynn Tetenbaum really to be guest coach at May 8 meeting

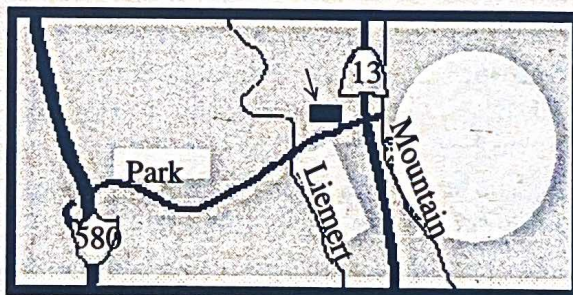
Our guest coach for our March 13 meeting will be Lynn Tetenbaum. Lynn is a graduate of Oberlin's Artist Diploma program, and of the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, where she studied with Wieland Kuijken and from which she received the Premier Prix and the Diplôme Supérieur.

Lynn is a performer with the Boston Camerata, Arcangeli Baroque Strings, American Baroque, Musica Poetica, and the Sex Chordæ Consort of Viols. She is a co-founder of the concert series "Défense de la viole," and has performed with the Handel & Haydn Society, Emmanuel Music, and the Dallas Bach Society. She performs and records with the Boston Camerata. As a continuo player, she has recorded with gambists Gail Schroeder in Holland and John Dornenburg in the Bay Area.

Sche of Me

May 8,
June 12

* With D
† With Lynn



Lynn was also a big hit at this April's Fresno meeting, inside sources say.

The meeting will be held as usual at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland, at 9:30 AM, accessible from the Park Blvd. exits of both Route 13 and Highway 580; consult the sketch map above. Please fill out and send the reply postcard if you plan to attend.

Directory of Local Viol Teachers

San Francisco

Pearce, Farley 415-750-1536

South Bay

Blackman, Martha 650-493-0243

Dornenburg, John* 510-530-3202

Miloradovitch, Hazelle* ... 650-854-3818

**VdGS/Pacifica Members*

Santa Cruz

Lombardi, Luciana* 408-476-1131

East Bay

Kammen, Shira 510-524-7952

Brodo, Amy* 510-482-3470

Dornenburg, John* 510-530-3202

Morris, David* 510-658-3382

Tetenbaum, Lynn* 510-271-8041

Jeffrey, Julie* 510-237-8579

Useful Stuff

As a service to our readers, and because our vice-president told us to do it, Gamba News presents the following list of places to get useful things for amateur gamba players, each item accompanied by a slightly jaundiced review. We have tried most of these and nothing awful has happened yet. We wish you a similar outcome. If you have items to add to this list, whenever it next appears, please send them to:

Gamba News, c/o Iberien, 381 Belmont St. #202, Oakland, CA 94610-4807 • <darv@sfo.com>

The Discount String Center

Tel: (800) 348-5003. A very good place to get music stands, auto-tuners, metronomes, rosin and the like. Lowest prices we've seen on Pirasto and Super-Sensitive gamba strings.

Vast array of hideous Italian

saxophones and Roumanian plywood cellos.

The Boulder Early Music Shop Colo.;

WWW: <www.bems.com>; Tel: (800) 499-1301. Well-informed staff features Ria, *Gamba News'* official favorite early-music retail employee. (The guy who works there is *really* grumpy, though.) Easy-to-use online catalog makes ordering by e-mail simple and painless. Willing to order and track down whatever they do not have in stock. Cheap, serviceable bows by Mettal and Hendricks. Strings are cheaper elsewhere.

The von Huene Workshop Mass.;

Tel: (617) 277-8690; WWW: <www.vonhuene.com>. A lair of recorder snobs, enlivened greatly by the presence of the cordial and kindly Eric Haas, our other official favorite early-music retail employee. Now with on-line music ordering.

The Early Music Shop UK; WWW: <www.e-m-s.com>. Cheapest hard viol cases we've seen. Good place to get European editions that might otherwise be hard to find. Wide selection of silly Renaissance woodwinds make this a dangerous place for compulsive instrument buyers. We warned you.

Damian Dlugolecki Tel: (503) 669-7966; Fax: (503) 665-2738. Strings by mail. Damian will take an educated guess at the right gauge strings you need if you tell him your tuning and string length. Offers varnished strings for those with sweaty fingertips.

Boston Catlines Tel. & Fax: (617) 776-8688. We at *Gamba News* love our cat and even though this guy presumably doesn't use catgut, the name makes us uneasy.

Herb Myers Menlo Park; Tel: (650) 854-1447. Can fix any viol that can be fixed. Reasonable prices; deeply knowledgeable. You must be willing to work within his schedule.

Roland Feller, Violinmaker San Francisco: (415) 567-3708. Roland is cool and Swiss, and makes Ifshin's Violin Shop in Berkeley feel a bit like a used-car lot by comparison. Very good for bow-repairs; also viol repairs.

dule
etings

1999†
1999*

vid Morris
Tetenbaum

WE NEED MUSIC

With recent membership growth, we think it is now time to enhance our Pacifica music library — the collection we use for monthly consort playing. This will allow the people who have kindly lent us their consort collections for so long to retrieve them and enjoy them at home.

If you have unused or duplicate con-kind, including vocal music with friendly page-turns, please consider VdGS. We have already acquired a number of pieces for our beginning and lower-intermediate players' use, but we would especially appreciate donations of three or more parts for intermediate and above. But all donations will be welcome!

If you have music (no photocopies, please!) to donate, please bring it to the May meeting where you will be feted for your contribution, or mail to Pacifica at: c/o John Mark, 10 Holyrood Manor,

photocopies, please!) to donate, meeting where you will be or mail to Pacifica at: c/o John Mark, 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland, CA 94611. Thank you!

sort music of any instrumentalist-donating it to the number of pieces intermediate players' use, nations of consort middle-intermediate-donations will be



GAMBA NEWS

C/O IBERIEN
381 BELMONT ST. #202
OAKLAND, CA 94610-4807

Julie Jeffrey
1521 Sequoia Ave.
Richmond CA 94805

Player